

REMARKS

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 10, 11, 16, 17, and 23-34. By this paper, Applicants have cancelled claims 17 and 30-34 for possible inclusion in a continuation application and amended claim 11 for clarification of certain features to expedite allowance of the present application. These amendments do not add any new matter. Upon entry of these amendments, claims 1-4, 10, 11, 16, and 23-29 remain pending in the present application and are believed to be in condition for allowance. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims.

Claim Rejections under Doctrine of Obviousness-Type Double Patenting

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 4, 11, 17, and 23-34 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting based on claims 1-9 of U.S. Patent No. 6,702,412, issued on the parent application. The Examiner also rejected claims 2, 10, and 16 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting based on claims 1-9 of U.S. Patent No. 6,702,412 in view of Abbott (U.S. Patent No. 6,230,903) and rejected claim 3 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting based on claims 1-9 of U.S. Patent No. 6,702,412 in view of Reddicliffe (U.S. Patent No. 6,431,668):

Although Applicants do not agree that claims 1-4, 10, 11, 16, 17 and 23-29 are obvious over claims 1-9 of U.S. Patent No. 6,702,412 either alone or in view of the above-cited references, Applicants have already filed a terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.321(c). For the Examiner's convenience, Applicants have attached a copy of the terminal disclaimer filed on March 21, 2005. In view of the terminal disclaimer, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the foregoing rejections.

Further, Applicants have cancelled claim 17 and amended independent claim 11 to include the subject matter of claim 17, which was only rejected under the doctrine of

double patenting. As such, Applicants respectfully assert that in view of the terminal disclaimer, independent claim 11, as amended, and the claims that depend therefrom (claims 16 and 27-29) are now also in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

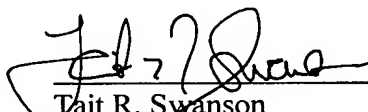
The Examiner rejected claim 11 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Klakovich (U.S. Patent No. 3,133,768) in view of Johnson (U.S. Patent No. 3,803,670); claims 11, 16, and 27-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Abbott (U.S. Patent No. 6,230,903) in view of Johnson (U.S. Patent No. 3,803,670); and claim 16 as obvious over Klakovich in view of Abbott. Applicants reiterate that independent claim 11 has been amended to include subject matter of dependent claim 17, and that claims 16 and 27-29 all depend from claim 11. Moreover, claim 17 was only rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting. As such, in view of the foregoing amendment and the previously filed terminal disclaimer, Applicants stress that the Section 103(a) rejections are moot and should be withdrawn. For these reasons among others, claims 11, 16, and 27-29 are believed to be allowable over the cited references taken either alone or in combination with each other. Thus, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections against claims 11, 16, and 27-29.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims should be in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite further prosecution, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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